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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/508,759	09/22/2004	Hyo Jeong Hong	DE1586	9699

1109	7590	08/22/2007
ANDERSON, KILL & OLICK, P.C.		
1251 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS		
NEW YORK,, NY 10020-1182		

EXAMINER	
BOESEN, AGNIESZKA	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1648	

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08/22/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions, which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claims 1-10, drawn to a process for preparing a humanized antibody comprising the steps of selecting the specificity determining residues (SDR) and grafting said SDR to at least one of the corresponding amino acid sequences into human antibody variable regions.

Group II, claims 11-14, 23, and 24 drawn to a humanized antibody.

Group III, claims 15-22, drawn to a DNA encoding the humanized antibody.

The inventions listed in groups I, II, III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the special technical feature of the claimed invention is the humanized antibody to HBV pre-S1 antigen and a process for preparing a humanized antibody comprising the steps of selecting the specificity determining residues (SDR) and grafting said SDR to at least one of the corresponding amino acid sequences into human antibody variable regions. Thoma (US Patent 6,020,167) discloses a humanized antibody against HBV pre-S1 antigen (MA 18/7)

Art Unit: 1648

(see Example 9). Tamura et al., (Journal of Immunology, 2000, Vol. 164, p. 1432-1441 in IDS of 8/7/2006) disclose a method for preparing a humanized antibody comprising the steps of selecting the specificity determining residues (SDR) and grafting said SDR to at least one of the corresponding amino acid sequences into human antibody variable regions (see entire document).

Since Applicant's invention does not contribute a special technical feature when viewed over the prior art they do not have a single inventive concept and thus the claims lack unity of invention. Therefore, the instant invention lacks Unity of Invention and restriction is set forth as it applies to U.S. practice.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Notice of Possible Rejoinder

The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. **Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product** will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

Art Unit: 1648

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai*, *In re Brouwer* and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b)," 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.** Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Agnieszka Boesen whose telephone number is 571-272-8035. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bruce Campell can be reached on 571-272-0974. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AB

Agnieszka Boesen, Ph.D.

/Stacy B. Chen/ 8-16-2007
Primary Examiner, TC1600